beneficiaries is invested as per the pattern prescribed by the Ministry of Finance. During 1992-93 to 1994-95 an amount of Rs. 14319.86 crore was got invested by the EPF Organisation.

(d) to (f). There are petitions/complaints received in respect of settlement of provident fund claims, family pension claims, transfer of P.F. accumulation, payment of advances, issue of annual statements of account etc. In the EPF Organisation there is already a Public Grievances Hearing System for redressal of all such public gievances/petitions. For providing prompt service to the EPF subscribers, a massive computerisation programme has also been launched in the EPF Organisation.

Trivandrum International Airport

2461. SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) the steps taken to provide the basic facilities to the Trivandrum airport after its being declared as an International airport in 1991;

(b) the existing International air services available at the above airport;

(c) whether demands have been received to undertake more air services from the airport; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BOARDCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) Basic facilities like better baggage handling, improved passenger amenities, safety equipment etc. have been provided at Trivandrum airport. Extension of main runway, modification to the international terminal, installation of precision approach lighting etc. are in progress.

(b) 5 foreign airlines namely Kuwait Airways, Gulf Air, Air Maldives, Air Lanka and Oman Air in addition to Air India and Indian Airlines operate 75 flights perweek from Trivandrum airport.

(c) and (d). Demands are received for additional services from time to time. New services are started by the airlines taking into account commercial viability of air services, availability of aircraft, capacity, traffic rights on particular routes etc.

Social Development Scheme

2462. SHRI ANCHAL DAS : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) the local social development schemes for workers provided by the private sector engaged in exploration of mines;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise particularly in Orissa;

(c) whether any survey has been conducted regarding these development programmes; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) to (d). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Arrears Due to Cane Growers

2463. SHRI RAMSAGAR : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Allahabad High Court has ordered the Government of Uttar Pradesh to pay nearly Rs. 900 crore in sugarcane arrears to farmers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the farmers have protested the payment of arrears through the issue of Vikas Patras and demanded the payment in cash; and

(d) if so, the action taken by the Government to pay the arrears to farmers in cash?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) and (b). The High Court of Allahabad (Lucknow Bench) has passed an interim Order in Writ P.No. 1720 (MB) of 1996, V.M. Singh v/s. State of U.P. and others directing the Cane Commissioner, U.P. to ensure through the District Cane Officers determination of the actual price of the cane required to be purchased by the sugar mills as per the agreement and payment of the same to the cane growers/cane growers' society within 15 days. No specific amount has been mentioned.

(c) and (d). The Government of U.P. have reported that in response to a complaint voiced in newspapers regarding insistence by one of the district officers to make the cane arrears payment in the form of Vikas Patras, it has issud a circular directing that no such condition should be imposed.

Out-Dated Telephone Exchanges in Madurai

2464. SHRI A.G.S. RAM BABU : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of out-dated telephone exchanges in Madurai;

(b) whether the Government propose to replace these exchanges by electronic exchanges;

(c) if so, by when;

(d) the waiting list for telephone connections and the time by which the connections are likely to be given to those subscribers;

(e) whether there is any proposal under consideration of the Government for setting up more electronic exchanges and expansion of telephone services;